

THE INDEPENDENT

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Daily, By Mail, One Year, \$3.00
 Daily, By Carrier, Per Month, 1.00
 Weekly, One Year, 12.00

Remittances at the risk of subscriber unless made by registered letter, check, or postal or express order payable The Independent Publishing Company.

Persons desiring THE INDEPENDENT served at their homes or places of business, can order by postal card or through telephone No. 100. Please report cases of irregular delivery promptly. Advertisements, to insure prompt insertion, should be handed in before 5 p. m.

Rejected communications not returned unless postage is inclosed.

HELENA, MONT., OCT. 17, 1889.

MONTANA SHUT OUT.

Our Washington despatches this morning bring the news that the disappointed republican candidates for the United States senate have taken their revenge on the people of Montana by their factional contest that has resulted in having us excluded from the president's proclamation admitting the new states. North and South Dakota and Washington are to be admitted at once, while Montana is to be left in territorial bondage until the rascally work of the republican conspirators in Silver Bow county, based on the affidavits of an ex-convict, is disposed of by the courts.

This turn of affairs is no surprise to us. We have seen enough of the work of the conspirators in the last few days to warrant the belief that they would rule or ruin. They have not hesitated to bring our people into disgrace abroad, to depress business, to injure our prospects for the future. Why should they stop at depriving us of statehood, if by so doing they can gain more time in which to defeat the popular will?

But we wonder at the patience of the masses of the republican party! How long are they going to submit to the alternative of Sanders or nothing?

THE DEMOCRATIC POSITION.

The statement in the Herald that "the same attorneys who insisted in the Jefferson county case that the canvassers should go behind the returns to correct an omission, as stoutly argued in the Silver Bow case that there was no power to go behind or beyond the face of the returns," is unqualifiedly false. In the Jefferson county case the judges of Basin precinct wholly omitted to make any return for joint representative. The poll book returned contained no mention of this office. Section 1055 general laws revised statutes Montana provide that it shall be the duty of the board of canvassers to send for the returns if there is a failure to send them up on the part of the judges of election. This they did not do, but the democratic attorneys had the judges and clerks of election reassemble and make a supplemental return for joint representative and duly certified the same, and in a body brought this return to the board which by a strict party vote was rejected. The true reason for this was the fact that Jackson, the republican, had only thirty-five votes and Whaley, the democrat, had forty-six. To receive this supplemental return was not going behind the returns, but simply adding to them the part entirely omitted. This is what the board of Lewis and Clarke county did in regard to the second precinct. And they acted under the advice of an honest and able democratic attorney general. No such question arose in Silver Bow. There the return was complete and regular on its face, and no question was made as to its genuineness. The law is undisputed that in such cases the board have no discretion, but it was their imperative duty to count the vote. This they refused to do and upon ex parte affidavits went behind the face of the returns and decided there was fraud and threw out the whole precinct. This action on the part of the board was a bold, unscrupulous usurpation of power for partisan ends that they knew they had no right to exercise. It may be the editor of the Herald is too obtuse to see the distinction between the two cases.

We will give him another fact which he can understand. The Penn Placer precinct in Jefferson county was republican, but it was held by three judges without any clerks at all and the board asked the opinion of the democratic attorneys whether they should count it and they promptly told them they should do so, and it was counted.

The Herald will find democrats always consistent in demanding a fair count of the votes of the people, notwithstanding immaterial irregularities. It is the vilest hypocrisy to profess to be a party of great moral ideas and even apologize for such dastardly conduct as Wm. M. Jack and W. E. Hall were guilty of in throwing out the vote of precinct 34 in Silver Bow county. If the better class of republicans do not rise up and condemn this outrage, they will find their party justly characterized as a party of false pretenses and political phariseism.

WHAT does Mr. L. H. Hershfield, as a business man, think of the wisdom of a policy that is ruining the reputation of the state abroad, paralyzing business, destroying confidence in our capacity for

self-government and threatening our statehood? That is precisely the policy that Mr. Hershfield is engaged in aiding and abetting. The methods of the gang of desperate, returning-board politicians with whom he is consorting, mean the subversion of popular government in Montana, and all the train of evils that follow the unlawful overthrow of majority rule. If Mr. Hershfield wants to know what the effect of the republican conspiracy will be, let him study the history of Louisiana, South Carolina, Alabama or Mississippi. Does he want to destroy the credit of Montana financially, and in every other way, by proclaiming to the world that the vote of the state can be stolen in defiance of law, truth and justice? Do you think it will pay, Mr. Hershfield, do you think it will pay? Ask the first republican business man you meet if he thinks an investment in the proceeds of an election theft is safe or profitable for you, or Sanders, or anybody else. As a capitalist do you think it a good thing to Mexicanize Montana? If you do, you are not the long-headed business man we took you to be.

DEMOCRATS, HOLD THE FORT!

Democrats of Montana, you have won the fight! You have elected your governor, you have carried the legislature on joint ballot! The great majority of your political opponents fairly concede the victory to you; the people of the United States know you have won it. You must hold fast what you have got!

The attempt of six or eight political knaves, aided by an ex-convict, to steal enough votes from you to change the result will fail. Their conspiracy has been fully developed, their perjured witnesses are known, their paid affidavit-makers are again on the road to prison. Already one of the Silver Bow canvassers has left the United States and other men who took part in the plot there will follow. They dare not continue to dwell among the people they have wronged. Ostracism will be visited upon every one of the gang from top to bottom for the crimes they have committed.

The latest appeal of the ballot stealers is to the president of the United States, and that is a forlorn hope. The scoundrels fear the law. They know that an impartial tribunal will make short shift of them and will order the canvassers in Silver Bow county to count every return made to them as the law directs; and that will end their whole case. They have insulted the integrity of the president by asking him, while the case is pending before Judge DeWolfe, to suspend or remove that able and incorruptible jurist and appoint a pliant tool of their own in his stead. No president in the long line of our chief magistrates would ever have entertained such a proposal, involving as it does the subversion and degradation of an impartial judiciary, and there is no probability that Benjamin Harrison will commit political suicide because two or three unscrupulous men in Montana want him to furnish them with pick and jimmy to break into the United States senate.

We do not for a moment believe that the move against Judge DeWolfe will succeed. The scoundrels are beaten. The right and the majority are on our side. There will be but a few more days of delay and then we will come into our own. That is as sure as the sun shines.

The attack of the State Stealers on the courts is their last desperate resort. The efforts of the scoundrels to secure the removal of Judge DeWolfe, while an election contest is pending before him, is a revelation to the country of the infamy of these men. Their assumption that the president would stoop to aid them in their crime is the worst insinuation ever made against Mr. Harrison's character. Mr. Harrison is a very strong partisan, but we believe he is a far better man than the conspirators take him to be. We shall be surprised if he does not rebuke them for their insolent and rascally demand.

MR. RUSSELL HARRISON's organ has been doing a good deal of sneaking in the bush since the stealing of the state began, but it popped up in sight long enough yesterday to apologize for the ex-convict, who got the affidavits of drunken men on which the vote in Silver Bow was thrown out. And then it crawled back again. It will be out with another apology when the jail door snaps on the affidavit manufacturers.

MONTANA is a big state but it will not be big enough to hold the political scoundrels who are trying to subvert its laws, if they push things too far.

If the hoodle-hunter of the Boulder Age wants a controversy with THE INDEPENDENT he can have it.

The Victims at Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 16.—No further deaths have resulted from yesterday's accident. Miss Oskamp remains unconscious and will probably die. Mrs. Roebuck is somewhat improved, but is not out of danger. Young McFady is in a fair way to recover.

THE CRIME AGAINST THE BALLOT.

Public Opinion on the Work of the Republican Conspirators.

Anaconda Standard: Wilbur F. Sanders, of Helena, and Hiram Knowles, of Butte, are the promoters of this dastardly business. This newspaper will not grossly insult them by making the Seligmans, the Mantles and the Irvins partners in their conspiracy. These two men, influenced by an unholy zeal for unearned honors are the offenders who have fixed indelible stigma on the name of William Jack; these two men merit the contempt of every American citizen who prizes fair play. The Standard pledges itself to live. It will live if for no other purpose than to follow these men like an avenging Nemesis, to make burdensome to them all the honors that are possible under American citizenship, to din unceasingly in the public ear the story of their conspiracy, to hold them up to public contempt, to warn men of honest impulse and who love decency in policy against them, to herald them everywhere as the enemies of this commonwealth while they live and to brand their memory with obloquy when Montana's envying hills shelter their dishonored graves.

Butte Miner: If men like William M. Jack and William E. Hall are in any particular qualified to give a judicial decision, involving the political destiny of Montana, courts of law might as well be abolished, law libraries burned up and every vestige of an enlightened judicial system swept from the face of civilization. If there is any man in Montana who believes that these men are qualified to act in a judicial capacity by reason of their intelligence, education, experience or honesty, let him hold up his hand that the people of Montana may see the marks of the handcuffs or the palm lines of an imbecile. One of the men who was instrumental in procuring these affidavits and in establishing fraud at the Thirty-fourth precinct came into the judicial presence of William M. Jack and William E. Hall, with the blood of a victim whom he murdered at Murray, Idaho, in 1884, dripping from his convict garments. He was for that crime sentenced to the penitentiary for eight years, and was pardoned before the expiration of his time through political influence that a murderer might be had for such political emergencies as that so recently developed in this county. Another man who was among the most industrious in producing evidence is the man who a few years ago accused William M. Jack of swindling the county in the court house deal, and whom Mr. Jack then said he would not believe on oath. These are the men and this is the character of the evidence upon which William M. Jack and William E. Hall betrayed the most sacred confidence of their fellow-citizens.

Bozeman Chronicle: Some of the republican senatorial aspirants at Helena are making fools of themselves and the republican party as well. Thos. Carter, we are reliably informed, has said that Jos. Toole and a democratic legislature were just as much entitled to an election certificate as himself. Not so with the gang who have been left in the shuffle. It is scouring the territory in its efforts to find republican canvassing boards, without the fear of the law before them, to throw out precincts which will give republican legislators a seat. It having been reported by the republicans at Bozeman that Whaley's majority was only 115, enough votes were thrown out to give his opponent a majority, when it was found that Whaley still had a majority, and this returning board did not accomplish the work desired.

THE CITY SCHOOLS.

Added Facilities This Year.—The Duties of Parents.

The public schools of Helena have now been in session over six months. In view of the great interest taken in the subject of popular education it may not be amiss to make a statement of some of the facts relating to the schools of this city.

The crowded condition of the schools last year, together with the rapid growth of the city during the past summer, made it apparent that more school room and an increased teaching force would be necessary during the present year. According one room was rented on Benton avenue, two on Hillside avenue and one on Fifth avenue; also, one vacant room in the Depot school building was fitted up, making in all five new rooms.

After the opening of the schools it was found necessary to make some provision for the relief of the Central building, which was crowded to such an extent that it was utterly impossible to do efficient work.

This was accomplished by renting two rooms on North Rodney street. No. 4 was divided and transferred from the Central building to this location. The sixth grade was then moved into the room vacated by No. 4, and the eighth grade taken from the high school room and located in the room which had been occupied by No. 6.

As the schools are now adjusted there are twenty-nine rooms, arranged as follows: Seven first grades, six second grades, five third grades, four fourth grades, two fifth grades, two sixth grades, one seventh grade, one eighth grade and one high school.

During the month of September over 1,100 pupils were enrolled in the schools, making an average of forty per room. Thus far during the present month the number has been considerably increased by the registration of new pupils, so that the total enrollment is between 1,200 and 1,250.

There are doubtless in the city a great many children who expect to attend the public schools during the year, but who for various reasons have not as yet presented themselves for enrollment.

We cannot too strongly urge upon the parents of such the importance of having these children enter their classes at the earliest possible day. Much valuable time has already been lost, and unless they enter in the near future it is more than probable that it will be necessary to place them in lower classes.

The report for the month of September shows there were one hundred and sixty (160) cases of tardiness and nearly one thousand (1,000) days of absence. It is unnecessary to enter into an argument to con-

vince intelligent parents that it is impossible for pupils to do effective work when they are frequently late at or absent from school.

These irregularities are in many instances, no doubt, unavoidable, in which case, while a teacher may regret it, she would not think of censuring either pupil or parent. But much of it, we are persuaded, is the result of carelessness and it is this we wish to reach, and if possible prevent. To do this there must be a hearty co-operation between teacher and parent. Both are interested parties and must necessarily share the responsibility.

To aid in bringing about the desired results, parents are asked to carefully examine the excuse cards which may be sent to them from time to time and to sign and return the same. This will enable the teacher to know that parents have knowledge of their children's irregular attendance, and it is believed it will do much to prevent that which is unnecessary.

The teachers in our schools are earnest, capable and will spare no pains to do thorough and satisfactory work with their pupils if they are regular in their attendance and studios in their habits.

The patrons and friends of the schools are earnestly invited to visit the teachers in their work at any and all times. The kindly interest thus manifested can not fail to result in much good to all parties concerned. Should misunderstandings arise or dissatisfactions occur, as is by no means improbable in so large a system of schools, do not hesitate to call upon the teachers or superintendent and report the same. Such matters will be carefully investigated and satisfactorily adjusted if it is possible to do so. During the past years the schools of Helena have reached such a degree of excellence that they are justly the pride of the city. Shall there not be a united and earnest effort on the part of both teachers and citizens to bring them to a still higher degree of efficiency and make their influence for good commensurate with the growth and prosperity of the city and state? Y.

THE MARITIME CONFERENCE.

Reception of the Delegates by Secretary Blaine and the President.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16.—The diplomatic reception room of the state department presented a scene of unusual brilliancy this morning when Secretary Blaine received the delegates to the international maritime conference. The members are noble looking men, arrayed in naval gold lace and from every prominent maritime nation of the world. The delegates were accompanied by the ministers of their respective countries. The reception was private. The delegates were presented to Blaine by their respective ministers and each received a cordial greeting. The body was photographed and taken thence to the white house and presented. The president made a brief address of welcome, after the members had been presented to him, and expressed the opinion that their deliberations would result in much good to the world.

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